

application before those dates. All acts relied upon to establish the date prior to the *Li et al.* and *Cargo et al.* references were carried out in the United States.

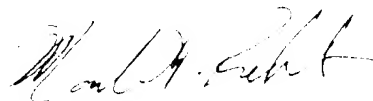
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131(b), Applicant respectfully submits that he has demonstrated facts sufficient to remove *Cargo et al.* and *Li et al.* as prior art. The declaration submitted herewith is made to facilitate prosecution of the application and is not an admission that the invention is otherwise anticipated or rendered obvious by *Cargo et al.*, *Li et al.* or the combination of *Cargo et al.* and *Li et al.* Applicant therefore reserves further comment on the merits of these grounds of rejection at a later date if necessary in view of the enclosed declaration.

The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections of claims 68 and 70-71 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Li et al.*, the rejections of claims 68 and 70-71 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Cargo et al.* and the rejection of claims 69 and 72 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over these references.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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MWR:sj

Enclosures:

Postcard  
Fee Transmittal Sheet (+ copy)  
Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131  
Exhibit A

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